# The Quest for Humanism and Civil Society in the Autobiographies

# Of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Nelson Mandela and Barak Obama

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## Introduction:-

Autobiography is the eminent literary form. In it the writer has to introspect and describe the contemplative story of the life. In Autobiographical writing the writer should be the factual social activist and the considerate spectator of the society around him. Evaluating an autobiography, a type of literary study which focuses whole work and life the writer. He sets an example of inspiration by describing famous events in his life. Autography gives positive way of life to the society and new generations. An autobiography is written with different angles.

An autobiography has always focused on the history of the writer's life and has gone through various types and the meaningful changes. Till the twenty first century various technological ideas have been used in writing and publishing. The success of a writer and autobiography depends on many struggles and sacrifices.

Present work focuses on the three autobiographies of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Nelson Mandela and Barak Obama. They are three prominent personalities of the world, greatest social activists for the democracy as well as for civil society. These autobiographies reflect humanism and civil society. They show us the light. They show struggle in the life that fought against the slavery for getting human rights for the civil society.

Journey of the autobiography gives positivity for the readers as well as new society. In the research an attempt has been made to explore the humanism and to scrutinize civil society. Three autobiographies have been selected for the study. These are: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Autobiography, *Waiting for Visa*, Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walks to Freedom* and Barak Obama's autobiography, *Dreams from my father; A story of Race and Inheritance.*

## 2. Aims and Objectives: -

The entitled research has some aims and objectives as follows:

- To elaborate basic concepts of an autobiography as a type of literary form.
- To comprehend the prescribed autobiographies to analyse past and present scenario of the modern society.
- To identify similarities and differences in various societies spread over different regions and time.
- To explore the quest of different ideas of humanism and problems in civil society in India, America and Africa.
- To anticipate the basic human virtues in the society through autobiographies.

## 3. Hypothesis: -

The legends of these autobiographies have major influence on their respective societies. They were treated with great respect irrespective of time and place. Their personal life is not the matter of study here. They lived and sacrificed for the betterment of the down trodden. It is hypothezed that these autographical works are historically and geographically different but they have political, social, economic, psychological and philosophical wisdom. These three autobiographies have universal views, values and moral principles to be offered to the world.

Beauty truth and goodness are reflected in the autobiographies. These three autobiographies are very important and valuable literary works in the history of literature. They are the essence of literature and literary style. They have contributed in terms of linguistics, humanism and civil society.

## 4. Significance of the Present Study: -

Autobiography is the most significant type of literature because it gives us an opportunity to have an insight into ourselves. Autobiography is the best literary form to read because it contains experiences of great lives which enliven the lives of the readers. Autobiographies have inspirational value. We learn from the struggles in the lives of these leaders and we can enhance the quality of our life. These three famous and greatest social activists and leaders are considered as great ideals in their nations as well as in the whole world for their work of political and social reforms.

## 5] Research Methodology: -

Research methodology used for prescribed research work is of subjective type it primarily focuses on the original autobiographies of the writers to comprehend the basic structure of humanism and ethics of civil society.

## 6] Chapter Scheme: -

**Chapter 1: Introduction**: -

First chapter gives the chapter scheme and brief outline of the research work. It also gives definitions, types of features of autobiography as a literary form. Autobiography is concerned with literature and it has variety in its presentation. It indicates the humanism and civil society in this study. The chapter considers many aspects of autobiography and why it is essential to undertake this type of research work. This research presents the progress of humanism and of civil society. The introductory part is gives the general information of the autobiography. There is an attempt to present successful life stories of the writers of these autobiographies.

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Nelson Mandela and Barak Obama lived their lives of struggle. They were brough up in poor and uneducated families. They

hailed from downtrodden societies. However, by the power of their education they stood against the practice of slavery, caste system and racial discrimination. They suffered many hardships to transform their respective societies into a civil society. They used legal system for this. Their fight against the social issues is a moral and inspiration for the humanity.

**Chapter 2:- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar - *Waiting for Visa* :-**

The autobiography of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar who came from poor and uneducated family background but took efforts to get higher education. He fought for the fundamental rights of the downtrodden people. He attempted to change the social system. He took a firm stand against the caste system and for the rights of the downtrodden. He fought against the curse of untouchability and caste-based discrimination which had ruined the lower-class population. He worked for the *Dalit* community and it was his primary concern to transform the contemporary Indian society. The Title *Waiting for a Visa* is metaphorical a government provides 'Visa'. In this book Ambedkar recalls the terrible experiences of his childhood. Chapter II of Waiting *for a Visa* that one gets to read about a different dimension of the vulnerability and helplessness of the untouchable community.

Dr. Ambedkar's whole life is very inspirational for the whole world. He fights since his college days till end of life. His life is completely belong to civil rights civil society as well as humanism Dr. Ambedkar autobiography gives always inspiration.

**Chapter 3: - Nelson Mandela - Long walks to Freedom: -**

Nelson Mandela was a social rights activist politician and philanthropist who became south Africa's first black president from 1994 to 1999 Nelson Mandela is a south African leader.

Mandela stands as an all-embracing giant who brought about his nations extraordinary peaceful transformation to democracy.

Mandela was the former South African president and advocate of the civil rights he fought for social equality and helped to change the racial injustice system. He lived 27 years in prison and he brought peace to a racially divided country.

In 1952 Mandela's leadership of ANC protest activities at that time nine month jail, in late 2001 Mandela stands against the terrorism after terrorist attacks the united states on September 11, 2001.

Mandela worked to ease the dangerous political and to build up the south African economy he was successful in his life.

**Chapter 4:- Barack Obama – Dreams from my father :-**

A story of race and inheritance. In the Third chapter prescribed strictly childhood struggling youth and the quest of the lost father of Barak Obama dreams from my father a story of race and inheritance is divided in three sections. The formal and Eminent personality of American president Barak Obama. **In the first section of biography his early life where he told about his father mother.**

## 7. Conclusion

In the research study of an Autobiographies International leader of the world reflected moral values, civil society, democracy, human rights as well as humanism so, these biographies are very important for the research study.

The present research topic explains how the writers came from poor background bu still they achieved great height of success. No poor background can be a hurdle to achieve great success.

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